

Austin Police Department Public Service Announcement

Nov 2013

Announcement

The Austin Police Department Search and Rescue (APD SAR) team is looking to expand its membership. The team is looking for volunteers with previous search and rescue experience; however they will consider applicants at all levels.

The team is looking for committed individuals willing to volunteer their time to train with the team on a monthly basis as well as complete some level of on-line training on their own. This is not your ordinary volunteer position, but rather a higher level of commitment, training and dedication.

Potential applicants should consider the following before applying:

- You should be very comfortable in the outdoors, especially in the Texas heat.
- Training and searches often take place in rough terrain, bad weather and at night.
- Although you are not expected to respond to every search call-out, **you will be on call 24/7** and you are expected to **reply** (not necessarily respond) to every call-out with your availability.
- Physical fitness is also a requirement for mission-ready status.
 - annual physical fitness test will be conducted
- Additional Training – If you are selected to be a team member you will be required to take the following additional training:
 - SAR Tech III certification from NASAR.org (online course)
 - NIMS ICS certifications: (all on-line courses)
 - **100** - Introduction to Incident Command System
 - **200** - ICS for Single Resources and Initial Accident Incidents
 - **700** - National Incident Management System (NIMS), An Introduction

Background

The APD SAR team is a first responder organization based in Austin with a primary mission of providing search & rescue services and resources to the Missing Persons and Homicide Units.

The team is comprised of highly-trained volunteers who have a strong sense of civic duty and responsibility. These team members maintain a state of preparedness by participating in ongoing training courses in the following areas:

- Urban and Wilderness SAR
- K9 Human Remains Detection (HRD)
- NASAR and FEMA Certifications
- Incident Command Structure (ICS)
- Search strategies
- Crime scene preservation
- CPR/AED and first aid
- Map & compass
- GPS navigation
- Communication protocols

The team is called upon to assist with different types of searches that include missing persons or evidence recovery missions.

The APD SAR team is looking to expand our team.

Available positions/membership types– *Please indicate interest as a Ground or Auxiliary team member.*

- **Ground team** *applicants who are interested in developing the skills necessary to become a field-deployable asset, to be able to respond to a search.*
- **Auxiliary team** *applicants who are interested in only helping with the business/operational aspects of the team, including, but not limited to, marketing, fundraising, event coordination, etc. Auxiliary members can respond to a search and assist in the command post, but do not deploy into the field. All team members are expected to assist with some of the business aspects like public/community outreach, some fundraising, etc.*